

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP on MODERN LANGUAGES



Chair: Nia Griffith MP (Lab); Co-Chair: Baroness Coussins (CB);
Vice-Chairs: Tonia Antoniazzi MP (Lab); Lord Dykes (CB); Baroness
Garden of Frogal (LD); Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury (Con).

What is the economic value to the UK of speaking other languages – and what is the economic case for building up language teaching in our schools? Report launch and presentation hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages.

Friday, 28 January 2022, 2pm-3pm (online)

Minutes

In attendance:

Parliamentary:

Baroness Garden of Frogal (Vice Chair) – in the Chair
Nia Griffith MP (Chair)
Lord Sherbourne (Vice Chair)
Baroness Finlay
Lord Hannay of Chiswick
Baroness Hooper
Bishop of Leeds
Baroness O’Neill of Bengarve

Speakers:

Prof Wendy Ayres-Bennett, University of Cambridge
Marco Hafner, RAND Europe, lead authors of the report.

Prof Ayres-Bennett and Marco Hafner presented the pre-publication findings of ‘The economic value to the UK of speaking other languages’ a report by RAND Europe and University of Cambridge; funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Building on previous research indicating the UK’s lack of language skills costs an estimated 3.5% of GDP, the objective of this peer-reviewed study is firstly to assess the economic value of languages to the UK in general and then to evaluate the potential economic benefits to the UK of improving language education in schools.

The presenters offered an insight into the key findings of the report, calculating the economic benefit of language skills to the UK economy and mapping those benefits to specific education policy scenarios.

Specific information is under embargo until 22 February 2022, when the report will be officially launched.